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New protocol agreed to: Practices can appoint own agents



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GenPro chair Angus Chambers says the changes in the contract talks protocol agreed to today gives contracted providers a fundamental right

“To us it felt like a historical injustice that’s been righted”

The formal capitation talks forum today agreed to contracted providers being able to directly choose their own representative.

The forum where primary care funding is discussed by sector appointees and government officials has today agreed to amend its rules to allow individual general practices to choose their own representative.

GenPro chair Angus Chambers, a contracted provider representative at the PHO Services Agreement Amendment Protocol (PSAAP) group, says he is excited by today's change allowing contracted providers – practices – to directly appoint their own representatives. The change was initiated by GenPro.

“To us it felt like a historical injustice that's been righted,” says Dr Chambers, a Christchurch specialist GP and practice co-owner.

It is a fundamental right, he says, for businesses to be able to choose their own representation in negotiations.

PSAAP last met in June 2022 when talks broke down over the 3 per cent capitation increase imposed by government agencies for 2022/23. No formal meetings were held again until today, mainly over an impasse on who represented practices.

Practices have been represented by agents appointed by the contracted provider caucus, a body which arose out of the General Practice Leaders Forum.

Dr Chambers says the next step now is to establish a mechanism by which practices can exercise their new ability to appoint a representative. He adds that GenPro members who took the “comprehensive offer” when joining have already given a mandate to the association to represent them at PSAAP.

“We are going to make sure everybody has got the opportunity to decide who they want to represent them.”

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